Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—1. Yes, not more virulent than in other parts of the State where the disease prevailed.

2. A campaign of vaccination was instituted in the town on a vigorous scale.

3. There is an isolated contagious disease ward attached to the local hospital and destitute small-pox patients are admitted there.

4. Attacks 146 and deaths 53.

5. Yes, 4 visits to the town during the period.

6. The arrangements were made to concentrate vaccination in the town. Three vaccinators were engaged in carrying on the work. The Division Sanitary Inspector and the local Medical Officer were also supplied with lymph to carry on an extensive campaign of vaccination. Lymph for about 5,000 cases was supplied during the period but only about 2,000 persons could be vaccinated on account of opposition of the people to vaccination.

Executive line of the Excise Department.

67. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. what are the standards for promotion in the executive line of the Excise Department;

2. whether it is the practice to promote the clerks of the Head Office as Excise Inspectors and if so, what is their special qualification to get into the field service?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—.1 Efficiency and fitness.

2. Yes. do.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The answer given is 'Efficiency and fitness'. May I know whether you have any tests so as to find out the standard of efficiency and fitness. That is a very big term, 'efficiency and fitness'. May I know whether any test is actually applied when a new man is recruited in the Executive Department?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—Service, personal knowledge to the Head of the Department, experience gained by their working in the place, all these things.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.— Is the experience in the office and all that the only test to find out efficiency?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—So, no test is applied?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—With his experience, the presumption is that he will do well.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Is there any test?

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Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—No.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—That is to say the personal satisfaction of the Superintendent?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—Yes.

Report of the Special Officer appointed to survey the area tapped by the Tramway.

68. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report of the Special Officer appointed to survey the area to be tapped by the tram printed as appendix?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The report is placed on the Council table.

Exemption of duty on Salt for Industrial purposes.

69. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered about the exemption of duty on salt used for industrial purposes as in British India; if so, what is the result?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—No. There has been no occasion to consider the question.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Do the Government know that salt is being used for industrial purposes in Cochin State?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—Government have no information.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Do they know that it is being used?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—No information.

Diwan's visit to Mysore.

70. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the object of the visit of the Diwan to Mysore this year;

(b) what important works were transacted by him during his stay there?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Nothing worth mentioning.

(b) None.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was his visit on Government business or private business?

President.—It was a private visit.

Brahmin cook for the Mental Hospital.

71. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of times the Honorary Visitors

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of the Trichur Mental Hospital recommended for a Brahmin cook;

the names of the visitors who made the recommendations; the number of Brahmin lunatics in the hospital at present?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Four.

Messrs. K. S. Velu.
Balarama Ayyar.
K. Kochugovinda Marar.
S. F. Nunez.

There are two Brahmin lunatics in the hospital at present. One male and one female.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know what action has been taken on this recommendation? The Honorary Visitors recommended four times for a Brahmin cook. I want to know what action was taken on those recommendations?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Government have ordered the appointment of a Brahmin cook, if there are many Brahmin inmates. Just at that time there was one Brahmin patient whose relations volunteered to buy or bring food from their house or a Brahmin hotel, Government defraying the expenses therefor. Now in the case of the two Brahmin lunatics, when their relations were asked to do as in the above case, they were unwilling. They said that they had no objection to the lunatics being fed from the institution itself.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Only the relations said that they had no objection.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The lunatics also; of course they had no objection. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Lunatics themselves! Did they not consider all these points when they made this recommendation?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes, I should think so.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then why no importance was attached to that recommendation?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The Government has ordered that a Brahmin cook may be employed if the real necessity arises.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There are two.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V Verghese.—For the sake of even two, both of them are females.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—One male and one female.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes, for the sake of these two, none was appointed since their relations volunteered

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to bring food and Government promised to defray the expenses. So, no action was taken.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the number required for appointing one Brahmin cook? You said when there are sufficient number; how many do you mean by saying that?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There is no hard-and-fast rule as regards that. If there is insistant demand from the relations or patients, then it will be considered. I referred to the Calicut Mental Hospital where there are 16 or 17 Brahmin lunatics. No Brahmin cook there. I know the British Government is paying serious attention to the particular sentiments of caste people, and with all that they have not appointed a Brahmin cook there. So I thought, if you had at least half the number here, I would undertake to appoint a Brahmin cook. The thing is a Brahmin cook wants Rs. 25 a month.

President.—If you say 'a reasonable number', then the further supplementary question will be what is the reasonable number. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I think nobody will have any objection to take food from the Brahmin cook. So why not appoint a Brahmin there instead of the other? He too is to be paid.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—A Brahmin requires excessive payment. A Brahmin cook wants Rs. 25 whereas this man wants only Rs. 6 per month.

Pay of Village Officers.

72. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have received petitions from the Village Officers (Parvathiams and Menons) regarding the increment of their pay;

(b) whether a deputation waited on the Diwan to consider their grievances;

(c) if so, what was the assurance given to them by the Diwan Peishkar and the Diwan during the deputation;

(d) how does the matter now stand?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Diwan Peishkar gave them the hope that their petition would be favourably considered.

(d) The matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was any reply sent to the petitioners?

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